FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 NOVEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian missile hit Baghdad 22 November, wounding 28 civilians, according to a military spokesman cited by INA. IRNA declared that the missile, which was targeted against a communications center, was launched in further retaliation for Iraq's "inhuman attack" 20 November on civilian areas of Ahvaz. In other Iranian action against Iraq, IRNA reported artillery hits on the Al-Bakr oil platform 21 November, air strikes on military and industrial centers in Al-Sa'diyah 22 November, and the destruction of an Iraqi engineering headquarters in Basra 23 November. Iraqi communiques carried by Voice of the Masses radio acknowledged that 22 civilians were killed and 72 wounded in Iranian shelling of Basra 20-22 November. Meanwhile, an Iranian spokesman cited by IRNA "categorically denied" that Iraqi antiaircraft fire from 'Ali al-Gharbi downed two warplanes 21 and 22 November.

As for Iraqi attacks on Iran, IRNA reported that 10 civilians were killed and 55 wounded in a 24 November Iraqi air raid on Sar Bandar and Bandar-e Khomeyni, southeast of Ahvaz. A military communique cited by the agency said 98 civilians were killed when Iraqi planes bombed Bakhtaran and Eslamabad-e Gharb the previous day. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses 23 November announced that warplanes "pounded" Iranian military targets in Shahabad and Kermanshah, the old name for Bakhtaran.

In remarks cited by IRNA on the subject of arms supply, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted 23 November that the United States is showing "disrespect" by refusing to release assets and spare parts. The government refuses to be "bullied," Rafsanjani declared, stressing that Iran will continue to support its military by relying on "internal resources" and without compromising the revolution's values. As for the debate inside Iran about contacts with the United States, IRNA noted that a majority of Majlis deputies sent a letter to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni confirming their loyalty and expressing regret over the "irresponsible acts" of certain Majlis deputies who have unwittingly weakened Iran by publishing "unauthentic or secret materials" in some newspapers. Noting that the letter followed Khomeyni's criticism of deputies who had asked Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati for explanations on U.S.-Iran contacts, the agency cited an *Ettela'at* report that the Majlis has withdrawn the questions to Velayati.

Egypt

Mubarak-Husayn Talks — Following 2 days of talks in Cairo, President Husni Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn praised bilateral relations during a 23 November press conference reported by MENA. King Husayn declared that the discussions took place in an atmosphere of "complete frankness and brotherhood" and that the two emerged with "concurrent views and goals." Noting that the Palestinian issue was the "main topic" of the talks, President Mubarak said the two leaders discussed "practical steps" toward convening an international conference which he characterized as the "main umbrella" for advancing the peace process. On the subject of Israel's role, Mubarak stressed that continued Israeli emphasis on the settlement of the occupied territories will "complicate" the process leading to the conference. In reference to the revelations on U.S. contacts with Iran, King Husayn declared that the U.S. "deal" with Iran will "escalate" the Iran-Iraq war. He joined President Mubarak in expressing the hope that the United States will take action to maintain its "credibility in the Arab world."

Arms Deal Cancellation — Egypt will abrogate an "undeclared agreement" permitting Israel to market military materiel produced by Egyptian weapons plants, according to "Egyptian presidential sources" cited in the 21 November *Al-Ra'y Al-'Amm*. The sources revealed that the "presidential instructions" reflect the concern that some Egyptian equipment may be transshipped to Iran.

Saudi Arabia

A "responsible source" denied that Saudi Arabia recently shipped fuel oil to Iran "via U.S. traders," SPA reported 24 November.

King Fahd headed the official delegation at the airport to welcome Crown Prince 'Abdallah home "from abroad" 22 November, Riyadh radio reported. The crown prince had stopped over in Morocco where he was received by King Hassan II and feted at a banquet 21 November, according to MAP.

King Fahd received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat 23 November, Riyadh radio reported.

Israel

Comment on U.S.-Iran Affair — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was aware of the main developments regarding arms sales to Iran and there are consequently "no grounds" for claims that Israel misled its "most prominent friend" in the U.S. Administration, *Ha'Aretz* asserted 24 November. Senior political sources cited by the paper predicted that Shultz will be forced to resign because he got "entangled in inaccuracies" when he professed ignorance of the affair. Although *Ha'Aretz* said Israeli leaders have expressed confidence that the affair will not affect U.S.-Israeli relations, Israeli officials cited by *The Jerusalem Post* warned that the "political imbroglio" in Washington could suspend bilateral cooperation on a wide range of military and political matters. Meanwhile, the MAPAM Knesset faction submitted a no-confidence motion on the question of arms shipments to Iran, Jerusalem radio noted.

Jerusalem Demonstration — Nearly 1,000 Jews marched into the Muslim quarter of the old city 23 November to commemorate

the murder of a Yeshiva student 1 week earlier, Jerusalem radio reported. The demonstration nearly ended in a riot as the marchers yelled anti-Arab slogans, damaged Arab property, and injured two Arab residents.

Lebanon

The "camps war" continued over the weekend, with Beirut radio reporting heavy fighting between Amal and Palestinian gunmen on combat lines around refugee camps in the suburbs of Beirut, Sidon, and Tyre. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that 22 people were killed and 87 were wounded in the fighting 21-23 November. The radio also announced a Palestinian advance in the Sidon area 24 November, stating that several Amal positions in Maghdushah were captured and that five Amal members were killed. However, Beirut radio said the Amal Movement repulsed the attack on Maghdushah. As for the situation in the Tyre area, Palestinian sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio warned of an impending Amal offensive on Al-Rashidiyah camp, and the radio said the inhabitants of the camp have appealed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to intervene to stop a "massacre." The radio also reported that Palestinian artillery on the mountain shelled the southern suburb of Beirut 23 November. The shelling came in spite of the Progressive Socialist Party's announcement over the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that it had begun confiscating Palestinian artillery responsible for shelling the suburb.

Beirut radio stated that Palestinian-Lebanese contacts would resume in Damascus 24 November in a further effort to end the fighting.

PLO Affairs

After 2 days of talks in Prague last week, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir and PFLP Secretary General George Habash resumed their discussions in Moscow over the weekend, according to Radio Monte Carlo, which gave details of "minutes" of the Prague meetings. In this account, Al-Wazir pledged that Fatah will uphold the cancellation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, but he called on the PFLP to promise to attend the PNC and to withdraw from bodies "outside the PLO framework." However, Habash said the PFLP cannot meet such "impossible conditions," and he stressed that Palestinian unity requires not only canceling the Amman agreement, but also severing PLO relations with Egypt.

Palestinian sources in Cairo told WAKH 23 November that President Mubarak has invited Yasir 'Arafat to visit Egypt as soon as possible. The discussions will deal with the Palestine issue and Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the recent talks between Mubarak and King Husayn, the sources said.

Syrian-PDRY Relations

In a predeparture statement cited by Damascus radio 23 November, Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council, described his talks with President al-Asad as "positive and fruitful" and reaffirmed PDRY support for Syrian "steadfastness." Meanwhile, in remarks cited by Radio Monte Carlo 23 November, former Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who was also in Damascus, praised Syrian endeavors toward a political solution in the PDRY and asserted that efforts for national unity are "greatly harmed" by the current Aden government's court proceedings against those accused in the January incidents.

Libya

Libya will be forced to take "deterrent measures" if the United States does not cease its "international terrorism," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in an interview with a Swedish paper read on Tripoli radio 23 November. While stressing that Libya does not condone terrorism, Al-Qadhdhafi said that unless the U.S. people "bring Reagan and Thatcher to trial," he would be forced to disclaim responsibility for the actions of relatives who might wish to avenge those killed in the April raid. Regarding his speech in Harare, the Libyan leader confirmed his criticism of the Nonaligned Movement and encouraged it to create "a collective economic and social and even military defense."

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Foreign Liaison Bureau Secretary Kamil Hasan Mansur had separate meetings 23 November with Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister, JANA reported. According to IRNA, Sheykh ol-Eslam arrived in Tripoli 22 November for talks on the regional situation, including Lebanon and "U.S. aggressions."

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid appointed Deputy National Defense Minister Abdallah Belhouchet as armed forces chief of staff, Algiers radio reported 22 November. Major General Mostefa Benloucif was relieved from the post for "health reasons."

DRA

A "powerful bomb" exploded 22 November behind the Education Ministry and near the venue for a press conference by PDPA Secretary General Najibullah, according to Western diplomatic sources cited by AFP. The sources added that Kabul television blamed the attack on "counterrevolutionaries."

Haji Mohammad Chamkani received the Soviet ambassador 23 November who congratulated him on his appointment as acting chairman of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council, Kabul radio noted.

Pakistan

Public assemblies in the eastern and western sectors of Karachi were banned for 2 months effective 23 November, Karachi radio announced. In a press release cited by the radio, a West Karachi official noted that police used tear gas to quell disturbances 21 November that resulted in the arrest of 44 "miscreants."

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Upcoming Gorbachev Visit, Relations Viewed

BK231019 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has said that the Indo-Soviet relationship is not only for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries but also for peace and prosperity of the entire world. These strong ties will be further strengthened with the visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, to the country. The president was speaking at a function organized at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [presidency] today for the release of a book entitled "Peace Has No Alternatives."

Releasing the book, the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said it is a significant publication and shows how much importance we attach to the visit of the Soviet leader. The book contains recent speeches, articles, and interviews of Mr Gorbachev. It has been compiled and brought out by the Patriot Publications.

In his foreword, Mr Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union and India cherish the same goals of peace, development, and neighborly cooperation. He said the outgoing year of 1986 has been rich in actions and initiatives aimed at radically improving the international situation. In this most important task, the Soviet Union and India have acted jointly, Mr Gorbachev observed.

Schedule of Gorbachev's Visit

BK231603 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Mr Gorbachev, who is arriving in New Delhi on Tuesday [25 November], will have wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues with the prime minister and other Indian leaders. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation and will be in the capital for 4 days. An economic agreement covering cooperation in petroleum and energy will be signed during the visit. The construction of the Tehri dam will also be covered in the agreement. Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Gorbachev will have two rounds of formal talks. Mr Gandhi will host a banquet in honor of the Soviet dignitary.

One of the main engagments of the Soviet leader will be an address to members of parliament. He will have lunch with the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In the nonpolitical sphere, a protocol will be signed on holding a festival of India in the Soviet Union. The festival is scheduled for next year. A consular convention to open more Indian consulates in the Soviet Union will also be signed during the visit. Before his departure on Friday, Mr Gorbachev will address a press conference along with Mr Gandhi. There will be a joint statement setting out the perceptions of the two countries on various issues.

The All India Radio correspondent says diplomatic circles in New Delhi attach great importance to the Soviet leader's visit. It has been noted that this is Mr Gorbachev's first visit to an Asian country after taking over the high office of the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The only other country he has visited as general secretary is France.

AFP Names Delegation Heads

BK230137 Hong Kong AFP in English 0126 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Nov 23 (AFP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives here next Tuesday for a four-day official visit, his first to Asia and one which analysts said was intended to build up the Soviet Union's privileged but marginally dominant links with India. [passage omitted]

The Soviet presence in India is considerable. It is India's main military supplier and second largest trading partner — behind the United States, but ahead of Japan. Soviet trade with India last year was worth 4.5 billion U.S. dollars. The main outcome of the Gorbachev visit is expected to be the signing of further economic and military cooperation accords.

Informed sources here said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Central Committee International Affairs Chief Anatoly Dobrynin, and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sergei Akhromeyev would be among the delegation, indicating the high degree of importance that Moscow accorded the visit.

Apart from bilateral accords, the two leaders were expected to sign a joint statement on international problems.

Analysts said that despite close existing contacts the Kremlin was still worried that India might review its position, as one of the Non-Aligned Movement's leaders, between the two superpowers. India was one of the six non-aligned countries — with Mexico, Sweden, Argentina, Greece, and Tanzania — which last year launched an appeal for a ban on nuclear tests. This was seen as closely alligned with Moscow's unilateral moratorium on underground nuclear testing and its inclusion of a bilateral test-ban as a main plank of its disarmament policy. Mr Gandhi is also opposed to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), which should bring him closer to Moscow. But the Indian premier is keen to follow the policy of his late mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, of diversifying India's arms supplies. This has made him more open to American offers of technology. [passage omitted]

The production of MiG-29 jet fighters under licence in India and the delivery of material to counter-balance U.S. supplies to Pakistan are expected to be at the heart of defence talks. Mr Gorbachev is also expected to make new efforts to attack U.S. influence in the East by renewing his appeal for an Asian security conference similar to the European Conference on Security and Cooperation.

Parliament Seeks U.S. 'Spy Planes' Discussion

BK240853 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Nov 86

[Text] In both the Houses of Parliament, ruling as well as opposition members expressed concern over the reported flights of the U.S. spy planes P-3 Orion which used air bases in Pakistan.

In the Lok Sabha members wanted a discussion. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, assured them that he would not bar any discussion but first he would ascertain facts from the government.

In the Rajya Sabha, members urged the government to come out with a statement on the subject.

Ministers En Route to Sri Lanka for Talks

BK240903 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Nov 86

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, are on their way to Colombo for talks with President Jayewardene and other Sri Lankan leaders. They are expected to bring back the response of that country on the package of proposals for solving the ethnic problem. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, expressed this hope in the Lok Sabha today.

Making a statement on bilateral discussions at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Bangalore, he said the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had held extensive talks with President Jayewardene. It was agreed that every effort would be made within the limits of the Sri Lankan Constitution to improve or modify the latest set of proposals to meet Tamil aspirations to the maximum extent possible.

Tamil Nadu Police Seize Tamil Radio Equipment

BK211334 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police today seized radio communication equipment which they said has been operated clandestinely by Sri Lankan Tamil terrorist groups in Tamil Nadu. Official sources told PTI the operation was smooth and incident free. The leader of the Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] said the police entered its office in south Madras early today and confiscated its wireless set. The police action came less than 2 weeks after the police [words indistinct] about 1,000 militants in Tamil Nadu and seized sophisticated arms and ammunition.

Government Dismayed; LTTE Leader Fasts

BK230739 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] The central government sources have expressed dismay over the action of the Tamil Nadu police in seizing communication equipment of the Tamil militants. A Home Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday that the center was taken by surprise by the action of the Tamil Nadu government. The union government sources were concerned about the fallout of the action and efforts have been made to contact the state government to find out why the action was taken at this juncture and at what level.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Mr V. Prabhakaran, began an indefinite fast in Madras yesterday demanding return of the communication equipment of militants seized by Tamil Nadu police.

Equipment Returned; Leader Ends Fast

BK231557 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] The leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Mr V. Prabhakaran, today ended his fast. He began an indefinite fast yesterday in Madras to protest against the seizure of communication equipment from the Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups. He ended his fast this afternoon shortly after the police returned the equipment and withdrew their surveillance on him.

2 Arrested for Sale of Defense Equipment

BK221600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Two persons, including one retired brigadier of the Army, were arrested today by the Directorate of Enforcement for violation of foreign exchange regulations involving several crores of rupees. The enforcement director, Mr Bhure Lal, told the All India Radio correspondent in New Delhi that they were involved in promoting sale of defense equipment. Both the persons were remanded to judicial custody till the 4th of next month by the additional chief metropolitan magistrate.

Gas Leakage Claim Filed in Bhopal Court

BK221256 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] The central government today submitted in the Bhopal District court claims amounting to 3,900 crore rupees from the Union Carbide for damages caused by the Bhopal gas leakage in December 1984. The government made the claim in a rejoinder to the Union Carbide's reply to its application in the court. The government said in its rejoinder that the amount of damages will exceed the claims if the case is tried to judgment because of the expenditure incurred by the government, damages to property and environment, and long-term effects of exposure to methyl isocyanate gas.

UN's Cordovez, Ziaul Haq View Afghan Issue

BK211524 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. He exchanged views with the president on matters pertaining to the Afghanistan problem. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was also present on this occasion.

Cordovez Leaves for Kabul

BK221716 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] The United Nations secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has left Islamabad for Kabul today for talks on the Afghan issue with Kabul authorities. Mr Cordovez will return to Islamabad after his Kabul trip.

Ziaul Haq on Atomic Program as 'Peaceful'

BK221602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Speaking to newsmen after the concluding session of the meeting [of the standing committee of the Islamic Conference Organization on Science and Technology], President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that Pakistan's atomic program is only for peaceful purposes. He said Pakistan is cooperating with some Islamic nations in the field of using atomic energy for peaceful purposes. If any Islamic country wants to join Pakistan in its efforts in the peaceful use of this technology, it will be welcomed.

In reply to a question on the free movement of manpower among Muslim countries, he said the committee considering free market has been reviewing this matter.

Delhi Reports Lahore Nuclear Demonstration

BK240912 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Nov 86

[Text] In Pakistan, hundreds of people took out a demonstration in Lahore yesterday in protest against the country's nuclear program and the American Star Wars project. Police used batons to break up the mass. Six persons have been arrested.

In Karachi, four buses were set ablaze by members of the Muhajir ethnic group, protesting against the detention of their leader, Mr Altaf Hussain. He was arrested early this month in the wake of clashes between two ethnic groups which claimed 58 lives.

Press Note Issued on Karachi Disturbances

BK220235 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] A press note issued by the deputy commissioner of Karachi-West last night says supporters of a political party disrupted traffic at the S.N. Taufiq Road in Liaqatabad at about 1000 hours. These people were demanding the release of their leader whose bail request had been rejected by the district and sessions court. These people not only pelted private and government vehicles with stones, but also set the motorcycle of a government official on fire. They also tried to set a bank on fire, but timely intervention by police and the fire brigade saved it. The law enforcement agencies brought the situation under control by using tear gas to disperse these people and by arresting a few of them. So far, 37 people have been arrested.

In another incident at the Society Office on Qaiding Highway, some miscreants set a bus on fire at 1900 hours. Seven people were arrested on the spot.

Law enforcement agencies have stationed [word indistinct] in Liaqatabad and other areas to patrol and take effective action against miscreants on the spot.

Karachi Magistrates Ban Public Assembly

BK230707 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] The districts magistrates of Karachi East and West have banned assembly or meeting of five or more persons at public places for any purpose under Section 144. This order will remain in force for 2 months.

SRI LANKA

No Talks Held With 'Terrorists' in India

BK211140 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has said that the government will act within the Constitution while safeguarding the unity of the country. Answering a question raised by the opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike on President Jayewardene's recent talks during the summit in Bangalore in Parliament today, the prime minister said that Mr Jayewardene had discussions with Mr Rajiv Gandhi having understood the situation and keeping the objective of peace in mind. Mr Premadasa said that the president had not had talks with either Prabhakaran [leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE] or any other terrorist leader. He said that the background of the speech made at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit by veteran politican like Mr Jayewardene was peace. The prime minister raised a question to whether anyone could accept the charge that such an individual was trying to sell the country or divide it.

Referring to the budget Mr Premadasa said that the finance minister in presenting the new budget had established a world record and done valuable service to the country. There has been much progress in paddy production and in the coconut industry. Prime minister added that a massive road development scheme was currently under way with the assistance of the World Bank.

Tamil Clandestine Radio Views Ethnic Talks

BK201044 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 19 Nov 86

[Text] People of Tamil Eelam have welcomed the recent talks between Velupillai Prabhakaran [leader of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE] and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Bangalore. It is indeed a just thing for the Government of India to acknowledge LTTE as the only independent organization of Tamil-speaking people and Prabhakaran as its leader. It is a good sign that the Governments of India and Sri Lanka, which held talks with the Tamil United Liberation Front in the past, realize their mistake and are heading toward a new path. It is painful to note that while the Tamil Eelam people have happily welcomed the talks [words indistinct] some organizations are making malicious comments and are trying to change their opinion. We are determined in our just struggle for our rights, thus, any talks and discussions with rival groups will not mar our goal. On the contrary, it will support our political growth. We believe this will be true in the case of the Liberation Tigers who are relentless and determined.

Here, we should point out Prabhakaran's folly. When Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi invited Comrade Prabhakaran to come for talks to the city where Sri Lankan President Jayewardene was staying, Prabhakaran would have been in a dilemma. The fact is Prabhakaran could not reject the invitation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

At this point, Prabhakaran should have consulted the leaders of other organizations — Balakumar [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], Padmanabhan [LTTE], Selvam [Tamil Maheshwaran, LTTE chief]. And only then should he have undertaken the trip. Although the leaders of the other organizations would not have liked Prabakharan's trip, the LTTE leader should have managed to overcome their opposition and then gone to Bangalore and held talks with Rajiv or JR [Jayewardene]. Then we would not have been able to point it out as a folly.

'Militants' on India's Tamil Radio Seizure

BK221104 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Madras, India, Nov 22 (AFP) -- A leading Tamil militant group accused the Indian Government Saturday of committing a "hostile act" by seizing sophisticated communication equipment from Tamil guerrillas battling for autonomy in Sri Lanka. "It reflects a hostile act even as India claims to be friendly to us," said S. Subramaniam, a top leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful of the militant groups fighting for an independent homeland in the island nation.

Hundreds of policemen swooped on Tamil militant camps and offices in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu Friday and seized "highly-sophisticated" wireless sets, crippling the guerrillas' communication links with their men in Sri Lanka. Tamil sources said West German-made transmitters and receivers were among the large quantity of wireless sets taken from the militants, who were stripped of all arms in a similar police swoop in Tamil Nadu on November 8.

Mr Subramaniam, convenor of the LTTE's political wing, told *Agence France-Presse* the seizure was detrimental to Tamil interests and came when Sri Lankan troops were poised for a major offensive in Jaffna in the country's north. Simultaneously, a leader of a smaller militant group, which was virtually decimated by the LTTE in April, left for New Delhi Friday following a summons by Indian authorities, the sources said. Selvan, leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), might be persuaded by New Delhi to bring other smaller militant groups to hold negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government, the sources said.

TELO, along with the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, forms the three-member Eelam National Liberation Front, an umbrella organisation which the LTTE quit recently. The fifth Tamil militant group is the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam.

LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran was flown earlier this week to nearby Bangalore City, during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation meeting, for consultations with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junis Jayewardene on the ethnic problem. The hardline militant leader, however, turned down Colombo's proposals.

The LTTE and other militant groups have boycotted peace talks brought about by Indian mediation between the Sri Lankan Government and the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front.

Tamil Radio Condemns Talks With Israel
BK221504 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1400 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Sri Lankan President Jayewardene and his Israeli counterpart, Hayim Herzog, had talks in Colombo on 20 November. Jayewardene also hosted a luncheon in honor of the Israeli leader on that day. Jayewardene held talks on arms supply to defeat the fresh offensive of the Tamil freedom fighters.

Voice of Tamil Eelam vehemently condemns Sri Lankan Government for going a long way in holding talks with the racist Israeli Government.

LTTE Said Operating Ships in Indian Ocean
BK171312 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1150 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Colombo, Nov 17 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gang of separatist terrorists are now running a flourishing international business operation with cash, gold, and other articles robbed from citizens in northern and eastern Sri Lanka and even operate two cargo ships which ply between India and Singapore.

Indian press reports received by LANKA PUWATH today state that the LTTE now owns two ships each of 1,200 DWT capacity which ply between Indian and Singpore.

This has been confirmed by LTTE spokesman Anton Balasingham. Balasingham has said that the recent crackdown on Sri Lankan Tamil terrorists had proved that the terrorists had training camps in India. Balasingham says this would undermine the separatist terrorist movement internationally.

If the Tigers had retaliated when the Tamil Nadu police rounded them up along with their weapons, the Indian Army would have had to be called to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Balasingham boasted.

State of Emergency Extended for 1 Month
BK220627 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0615 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Colombo, Nov 22 (LANKA PUWATH) — The motion to extend the state of emergency in Sri Lanka for a further month was passed in Parliament today.

Curfew in Mullaittivu for Military Operation
BK210540 Hong Kong AFP in English 0540 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Colombo, Nov 21 (AFP) — A 24-hour curfew was clamped on northern Mullaittivu District Friday morning as troops continued an operation to flush out Tamil separatists from their jungle hideouts, military sources said.

Three Tamil militants were killed in the jungle Thursday after soldiers assisted by the Air Force and Navy patrol craft went into action against separatists hiding in the thick jungle, the sources said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali confirmed that a military operation was under way in the Mullaittivu District bordering the Jaffna peninsula, but would not comment on the nature of the operation. "Just wait and see," he said. Military sources said the operation was concentrated in the northwestern part of the Mullaittivu District.

The curfew, which began at dawn Friday, was intended to keep civilians indoors as the soldiers fanned out in search of the hideouts. "We do not want civilians to be caught up in the action," one source said, adding that people who broke the curfew would be presumed to be Tamil militants. Sources said they expected the military operation to continue until late Friday.

Meanwhile, the Jaffna Fort Army camp in the northern Jaffna peninsula came under mortar fire Thursday night and early Friday, other sources said. Military sources said that troops had not suffered any casualties.

Embassy Denies Interfering With U.S. Hostages

LD220858 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Rome, Nov 22, IRNA — The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a statement here Friday [21 November] refuted allegations [that] appeared in the Italian publication *Espresso* on Iran's interference in releasing three American hostages.

Espresso, in its Nov 17 issue, misquoted the Iranian ambassador to Rome, Heydari, as saying that Iran in a humanistic measure had helped release of the three American hostages in Lebanon.

The denial said that the Italian weekly has distorted the Iranian ambassador's remarks which quoted Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying that if Lebanese friends accept Iran's humanistic demands, the Islamic Republic is ready to make it, however, they are free to decide and have no obligations toward Iran.

The statement concluded by saying that Lebanese people and combatants know well how to treat the U.S.

Meanwhile the Italian deputy prime minister said here Friday that his country has not delivered arms to Iran in return for the release of the hostages.

The Italian deputy premier who was answering questions of representatives of opposition parties at the parliament, further added that Italy has not received any appeal from any government, especially the U.S. Administration, on this issue.

He stressed that since January 1984 the Italian Government has received no instructions for the shipment of NATO or U.S. arms to Iran. But, he said, it is possible that those who spread the rumour might have misinterpreted the abreviations 'I.R.A.N.' on the packages which read for "destination inspection and repair as necessary".

On Nov 10 a senior official of the Danish shipping syndicate held a press conference in which he claimed that some 5,000 tons of armaments had been shipped to Iran an Italian port on board Danish ships. [sentence as received]

Following the press conference representatives of the cooperation parties in the parliament interpellated the Italian Government and demanded explanations in this connection.

UK Delegation Said Visiting for Hostage Release

TA241113 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] According to a reliable report we have received from Tehran and from sources close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a 6-member delegation comprising senior British security and political officials arrived yesterday in Tehran by order of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, carrying a message for Khomeyni in order to continue the secret talks between the United States and the Islamic Republic.

The group was received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and has been given accommodations at the confiscated home of Eskandar Aryeh, an Iranian businessman currently living abroad. The delegation came to Tehran in the aftermath of Margeret Thatcher's visit to the United States and her meeting with Ronald Reagan several days ago. The delegation has been assigned the task of arranging, through negotiations, the release of other American hostages in Lebanon who have been kidnapped by the Islamic Jihad, Khomeyni's terrorist organization. Ruhollah Khomeyni himself has consented to the gruop's visit to Tehran, and has promised to cooperate in the execution of their mission.

Resistance Official Discusses U.S. Arms Sales

PA211557 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1506 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Madrid, 21 Nov (EFE) — The "Mojahedin of the People [Muyaidines del Pueblo]," an organization which is opposed to the regime of Ayatollah Khomeyni, today denied that the weapons sent by the United States to Iran passed through the Madrid-Barajas airport, but did indicate that one of the airplanes made a stopover in Yugoslavia.

Afshin Alavi [spelling as received], representative of the organization, said in a news conference held in Madrid that the Boeing 707 of the "Air Cargo" company, flight number N345FA, which transported 23 tons [as received] of arms from the United States to Iran, "did not make a stopover at the Barajas airport."

"The airplane should have made a stopover in Barajas but for security reasons it flew to Tehran after making a stopover in Yugoslavia," he stressed.

Nevertheless, Alavi said that after completing the mission, the plane did make a technical stopover at the Madrid airport on its return from Iran.

The representative of the "Mojahedin of the People," who traveled from Paris to Madrid today for the news conference, said that the person who acted as an intermediary in the purchase of weapons from the United States is an Iranian named Fardina Azumi [spelling as received] who lives in Madrid.

Afshin Alavi avoided answering a question on whether ships with weapons left from any Spanish port for Iran, stating only that: "You must know that better than I."

He admitted that various Western countries — although he did not give names — had sold weapons to the Khomeyni regime, and he said that "3 years ago, the Mojahedin reported the sale of weapons to Iran by Israel."

The "Mojahedin of the People" said that the purchase of weapons by Iran from the United States is part of the "terrorist blackmail" that the Khomeyni regime is carrying out in the world," giving as an example the case of the U.S. hostages in Lebanon. [quotation marks as received]

Former President Cited on Arms Shipments

AU210919 Rome ANSA in English 0833 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] (ANSA) Milan, November 20 — Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani Sadr said that, "Italy has recently resumed the shipment of spare parts to Iran, mostly for helicopters" and affirmed that "there is traffic between the Sicilian mafia and members of the World Islamic Liberation Movement, a political and military grouping linked to many terrorist and clandestine movements in many parts of the world".

The ex-president's statement was made in Paris, where he is living in exile, to the Italian newsweekly *Epoca* which issued a pre- publication release of the interview Thursday.

"The Sicilian mafia delivers arms to the members of the movement and receives in exchange quantities of drugs", Bani Sadr said and insisted that among the Western countries supplying the arsenals of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Italy is in the front rank.

Speaking against the backdrop of Rome government denials of arms sales to Iran following a "political ban" on such shipments to Iran and Iraq adopted in 1984, the former president said that: "In first place is the United States, followed by Israel, Great Britain, Germany, France, and then Italy".

Referring to clandestine arms shipments to his country run out of the White House, Bani Sadr said that there is an Iranian-U.S. understanding on oil which will go into effect when the world price reaches 18 dollars per barrel.

According to the former Iranian president, the U.S. commitment to the Iranian side in the Gulf war, now in its seventh year, includes working towards an end of the conflict with the removal from power of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and some of his principal aides to assure rule by the Iraqi Ba'th Party and bar the way of so-called Syrian Ba'th opponents.

Also predicted by the ex-president is an end of Iranian support for terrorism and the release of Western hostages in the hands of Islamic groups in Lebanon.

"As far as oil is concerned", Bani Sadi said, "there was the replacement of (Saudi Oil Minister) Shaykh Yamani at the OPEC summit while preparations are underway to fix the price at 18 dollars per barrel. Extraction could again become profitable, this way, for the arid finances of Tehran", he said.

Reagan Remarks, West's Media Propaganda Cited

LD211501 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 21 Nov 86

["Review of Foreign Broadcasts" program]

[Excerpts] Despite the importance of Unity Week and its clear repurcussions in many countries of the world and the positive and clear results which accrue from Islamic unity, during the past week foreign radios were completely silent on this issue and did not make the slightest reference to it in their propaganda. The Fath-3 operations, among the important developments in the imposed war during the past week, were also ignored. The largest volume of propaganda on foreign broadcasts was devoted to the latest developments regarding America's attempts to establish links with Iran.

Following the revelations about McFarlane's visit to Tehran, an extensive propaganda clamor has started in the West, especially in America, and has attracted an unprecedented degree of attention. Western commentators claim that the volume of reports and analyses devoted to this matter in America and Europe during the past week is comparable to those at the time of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the detention of American spies by students following the line of the imam. This extensive propaganda concerning the latest developments in relations between Iran and America demonstrates the importance and sensitivity of the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

The fact that in his speech last week Reagan clearly admitted that Iran's revolution is a historical reality reveals Washington's desperation and helplessness in confronting the Muslim people of Iran, especially in view of the fact that during the past 8 years America's official and clear policy has been one of intense hostility toward the Islamic Revolution. At the same time, Reagan's speech contained other confessions concerning the position of the Islamic Republic in the region and the adherence of the Islamic Revolution to strategic slogans of the Muslim people of Iran. [passage omitted]

As Reagan emphasized, the factor encouraging America to get closer to Iran is the position of the Islamic Revolution in the world and especially in the region. The growth of Islamic movements in the region and the fact that Muslim people have adopted the Islamic Revolution as their model has considerably increased hostility toward America. As Reagan claimed, America is trying to improve its position in the region and in the Islamic world through the establishment of relations — and as they emphasize, not friendship — with Iran. [passage omitted]

All this reveals the strong position of the Islamic Revolution. The fact that a superpower secretly sends its envoy to the capital of the most anti-American revolution in the world and begs for the resumption of relations is an admission of the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and this begging occurs despite the fact that Washington has tried all different methods for the defeat and destruction of the Islamic Republic and has failed. In this connection, one can refer to America's political, military, propaganda, and economic support for the Iraqi regime, which, despite all hostile intentions, has not managed to have the slightest effect on the course of the war. On the contrary, the determination of the Iranian nation in suppressing the aggressors has been strengthened. The terrorist American government has also used different means for isolating the Islamic Revolution, while, at the same time, employing extensive propaganda in order to distort the features of the Islamic Revolution in front of world public opinion. The economic embargo and the military attack on Tabas were among the clearest examples of America's hostile policies toward Iran. [passage omitted]

Reagan's recent speech demonstrates that our enemies have despaired of destroying or even of weakening the reputation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and have come to the conclusion that their hostility and enmity toward the Islamic Republic will further weaken their own position in the region and will result in gradual elimination of Western influences. At a time when the Western press and media should be discussing the true reasons for American attempts to get closer to Iran, they mischievously try to cover up these realities behind a great deal of false propaganda. Their propaganda about the sale of weapons to Iran is the most important device used by them in this connection and Eastern and Western propagandists have in unison propagated it through their radios. [passage omitted]

The fact that the great struggle of a nation has been able to smash the awesome reputation of a superpower and force it to acknowledge its position demonstrates that in the past few years the unofficial policy of the U.S. Government toward Iran has been to try to bring a moderate government into power such as those which came to power in the early years after the revolution like the Provisional Government [of Bazargan] or liberals such as the traitorous Bani-Sadr. However, these attempts did not lead to anything and as it is openly admitted that the U.S. Government does not like the Iranian Government, it is still forced to establish some kind of links with it. [passage omitted]

While through necessity the U.S. Government has tried to improve its relations with the Islamic Republic, one should bear in mind that there are some fundamental differences between the Islamic Republic and America. As the officials of our country have announced, in view of these differences as well as in view of the hostile attitude of the U.S. Government toward the Islamic Republic, any kind of links between the Islamic Republic and America will be meaningless. [passage omitted]

In order to cover up the failure of American attempts to establish links with Iran, foreign radios — organs for misleading public opinion — are trying in a concerted fashion to create a hue and cry about the fabricated reports concerning the sale of weapons to Iran. It is interesting that Moscow radio, the loudspeaker of the Eastern superpower, is also joining in these false and malicious propaganda campaigns. [passage omitted]

By joining in the Western propaganda lies, Moscow radio, the loud-speaker of the Eastern superpower, is trying to make the lie about the export of American weapons to Iran seem like a fact. It is not strange that we are witnessing a concerted and coordinated propaganda by both superpowers. We should not forget that both superpowers have adopted a similar and even identical stance toward the imposed war. Both of them believe that Saddam should not lose the war, and both of them believe that Iran's victory will have profound regional consequences which are not in their interest. Both of them have supported Iraq within this framework through propaganda, political, military, and economic assistance. While both superpowers have described the war as meaningless, in the Security Council they have never had any differences of opinion in voting for resolutions against the Islamic Republic. These facts further reveal the collaboration and unanimity of views and propaganda of the two superpowers.

The false propaganda disseminated by the East and West has provided the 'Aflaqite regime of Iraq with a propaganda excuse for explaining its desperate situation in the imposed war and for indirectly blaming its defeats on this, as Iraq has already done. [passage omitted]

Despite all these futile attempts, the Muslim people of our country, relying upon God's esoteric assistance which has always been bestowed upon them and through a firm religious belief, during all stages of the 6 years of the imposed war have enjoyed and still enjoy complete superiority over their enemy. Through these effective weapons they will determine the fate of the imposed war in the future. The self-sacrificing operations of the fighters of Islam, who are 200 kilometers inside Iraqi territory in the framework of the Fath operations, are signs of the courage and firm belief of the fighters of Islam who have knocked down the 'Aflaqite regime of Iraq and its arrogant and reactionary supporters. Next week, which coincides with the anniversary of the formation of the mobilization of the oppressed, with the dispatch of tens of thousands of other fighting forces in the framework of the 100,000-strong army of Mohammad, God's benediction and salutations be upon him and his scion, the Islamic Republic of Iran will once again demonstrate its complete superiority over the arrogant powers.

French Return Funds Toward Settling Dispute

LD231901 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Iran and France have reached agreement on part of the bilateral financial differences.

Mehdi Navvab, [name as received] deputy economic and financial affairs minister and director of the Iranian organization for investment, economic, and technological aid, who is heading the Iranian delegation negotiating with a French economic delegation, while announcing the agreement added:

After more than 10 months of discussions in Tehran and Paris between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and France on resolving the French atomic energy commission's inobservance of its contract in reimbursing funds related to the $1 billion loan from the Iranian Government to the French atomic commission, an agreement was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers. The agreement is about reimbursement to Iran of $330 million as part of the $1 billion loan. The above sum was deposited in Iran's accounts yesterday morning.

Noting the history of financial disputes between Iran and France, he said: This is only a partial reimbursement of the Islamic Republic of Iran's claims against the French atomic commission and a final understanding in order to resolve the dispute has not been reached.

He expressed his hopes for an early end to bilateral financial disputes over the $1 billion loan during the course of their discussions.

Regarding reports on political dialogue between the two countries, the Iranian deputy economics and financial affairs minister

said that the Iranian economic delegation, led by himself, had concentrated solely on the financial disputes with the French authorities and specifically about the $1 billion loan. He pointed out that the delegation has had no political discussions with French officials.

Iraqi Deputy Chief of Staff Reportedly Injured

LD231117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] In a news bulletin, Radio Islamic Revolution of Iraq [as heard] quoting special sources in London announced: Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, deputy chief of staff of the Ba'thist Army of Iraq, is under treatment at a London hospital for serious injuries he has received.

This radio has not reported as to how or why the deputy chief of staff of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army received injuries.

Iraqi Attacks Seek To Delay 'Final Assault'

LD222344 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Blam, Nov 22, IRNA — Head of the War Information Office, Dr Kamal Kharrazi, said here Friday that the Iraqi regime is nervously awaiting the impending full-scale Iranian offensive. He said the Baghdad government's resumption of attacks on Iran's industrial and residential areas is a vain attempt to delay the final assault.

The WIH head, on an inspection tour of this western border province, furthermore said that the substantial casualties and damage inflicted recently on the Ba'thist troops 300 kms deep inside Iraqi territory is a sign of Iranian forces' combat power.

The world has now accepted the inevitable — that the Iraqi regime would shortly be toppled, said Dr Kharrazi, adding that Iranian Muslim combatants will decisively move to overthrow the Baghdad government when the order is given.

Dr Kharrazi said that the fatal blows dealt on Iraqi Ba'thist troops in Fath 1, 2, and 3 operations in northern Iraq were part of a new strategy. He added that the continuation of this strategy will enable Iraqi Muslim people to escalate their fight to topple the Baghdad regime.

He also described as "futile" efforts of the superpowers to impose peace on the Islamic Republic. These efforts, he noted were an indication of their fear of Islam.

Iraqis Urged To Strike at Baghdad Government

LD221745 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Semnan, Nov 22, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Hojjat ol-Eslam Baqir Hakim invited all Iraqis outside the country to join the Mohammad (SAW) Corps and strike a powerful blow on the Baghdad government.

The appeal was contained in a message issued by the SAIRI which called on all Iraqi brethren to form an army of their own in the framework of Mohammad (SAW) Corps. It noted that Iraq's sensitive situation necessitates that all Iraqis actively take part in the corps.

Hoj Hakim in the message read here also commented on the Fath-1, 2, and 3 operations and the effect they had on the Iraqi nation and on the political-military situation of the country. Iraqis seeking asylum in the Islamic Republic increased considerably after the operations, he noted, adding that more Iraqi soldiers have deserted the battlefronts and fled to villages to form para-military groups.

On Turkey's claims over Iraq's Kurdish-populated regions, the hojjat ol-eslam described them as nonsense and warned the Turkish government not to do anything to attempt to realize them.

The hojjat ol-eslam emphasised that the Iraqi Muslim people will not allow any foreign power to interfere in the country's domestic affairs. "The Iraqi nation will resist any foreign interference", he added.

On Iraqi POW's repeated requests to be allowed to go to the war fronts, Hoj Hakim said these brethren are part of the Iraqi nation and should have a role in establishment of an Islamic state there. He added that the issue is under consideration by Iran's Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and officials of the POW's commission.

Iraqi Situation 'Critical'

LD230019 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Semnan, Nov 22, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad-Baqir Hakim described the internal situation in Iraq as "utterly critical" and added that the Ba'thist regime will soon be overthrown. Addressing worshippers before the start of the Friday prayers sermon here, the SAIRI head said that the best proof of the deteriorating situation inside Iraq is that the Ba'thist regime's supporters have lost all hopes and have recently cut their aid to Baghdad.

Beside internal discrepancies, Hakim said, the mounting desertion of Iraqi soldiers and officers and their subsequent joining of the anti-government para-military forces inside Iraq, were further signs of the grave condition of the Ba'thist regime.

Mentioning the progress of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Hakim [words indistinct] support in Iran and is firmly stable. He added that enemies of Islam have now acknowledged these facts and have been forced to bow to Islamic Revolution of Iran.

He further said that the Islamic Revolution does not belong to Iran alone but to one billion Muslims in Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and other Islamic countries whose hearts are beating for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The SAIRI head arrived here on Friday where he visited Iraqi POW's camp.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Centers in Balad Ruz Hit 21 Nov

LD211706 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters in their fourth mission since early Friday bombed Iraqi military and industrial centers in the city of Balad Ruz at 10:53 hours (7:23 hours GMT).

According to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces the planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy damage on the centers.

Iraq's Al-Bakr Oil Platform Hit

LD211725 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 21, IRNA — Iraq's Al-Bakr oil platform caught fire when it was hit by coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps over the past 24 hours, which pinned down enemy troops on the platform.

Meanwhile, Iraqi positions in eastern Abul Khasib, east of Basra, were shelled in which 22 enemy soldiers were killed, and five individual and group bunkers, two vehicles, three loaders as well as a gun-emplacement destroyed.

Iraqi Claim of Downed F-4's Denied

LD221131 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 22, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically denied Iraqi claims that it had shot down two Iranian F-4 fighters on Friday and Saturday. Iraq claimed the two planes had been shot down in the central fronts (Saturday morning) and in the eastern Iraqi city of 'Ali al-Gharbi (Friday).

The WIH spokesman said that Iranian pilots had not carried out any mission in the central fronts Saturday. He also described the other Iraqi claim as "pure fabrication."

The spokesman stressed that all Iranian fighters returned to base safely after heavily bombing Iraq's industrial and military centers in the cities of Diyala, 'Ali al-Gharbi, 'Ali al-Sharqi, and Balad Ruz on Friday.

Iraqi Centers in Sa'diyah Hit 22 Nov

LD221733 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 22, IRNA — Iraq's economic and military centers in the city of Sa'diyah, northeast of Baghdad, was hit by Iranian jet fighters at 07:00 hours GMT Saturday, said a Joint Staff communique here.

The communique said that the fighters after inflicting heavy losses on the enemy economic and military sites returned safely to bases.

Missile Fired at Baghdad Complex

LD221845 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 22, IRNA — An Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at the telecommunications center in Baghdad at 18:51 hours local time (15:21 GMT) Saturday. The missile attack was in retaliation for recent Iraqi attacks on Iran's industrial and economic centers and its inhuman attack on civilian areas in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. Thursday. The attack followed an earlier missile attack on the building of Iraqi Defense Ministry on November 14. The Iraqi attack on civilian areas in Ahvaz Thursday martyred 25 people and injured 192 others.

A statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Saturday warned the Baghdad regime that its inhuman and vicious acts will not remain unanswered. The statement added that the Islamic combatants of Iran will continue to deal their fatal blows on the enemy in the war fronts and at the same time will retaliate "with all might" desperate Iraqi attacks on Iran's economic and industrial areas.

Baghdad Bans Reporters From Site

LD230720 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 23, IRNA — Baghdad television programs interrupted for ten minutes after Iran's surface-to-surface missile hit the Iraqi capital's telecommunications center at 18:51 hours local time (15:21 GMT) Saturday. Informed sources said that the interruption in Baghdad television programs might have caused by damage inflicted on the center by the Iranian missile. [sentence as received]

Iran fired a surface-to-surface missile at the telecommunications center in Baghdad in retaliation for recent Iraqi air raids on Iran's economic, industrial and residential areas.

Meanwhile, the Ba'thist regime has banned reporters from visiting the missile attacked area. Foreign correspondents residing in Baghdad have said that Iraqi authorities have not permitted them to cover the event.

A military spokesman in Iraqi admitted the missile attack but did not disclose the exact location.

Iraq Warned of Further Attacks

LD221914 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 22, IRNA — Following Iran's Saturday missile attack on the Iraqi capital, the War Information Headquarters issued an announcement urging international organizations to pressure Iraq to discontinue its vicious and inhuman attacks on civilian areas.

Otherwise, the announcement warned, the Islamic Republic of Iran as its natural and legitimate right, will use all its capabilities in retaliating Iraqi crimes. In that case, the announcement stressed, the Baghdad regime will be responsible for any subsequent destruction.

"Today's missile attack on Baghdad should have taught a good lesson to the Baghdad rulers," the announcement concluded.

Iraqis Raid Bakhtaran Areas 23 Nov
LD231027 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov 23, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi jets bombed residential areas in Eslamabad-e Gharb, in Bakhtaran Province at 08:05 hours GMT, Sunday. During the attack 20 residential units in the southern district of the city were damaged. It was not immediately known if casualties were also inflicted.

Meanwhile, during Iraqi bombardment of Bakhtaran Sunday morning, a mosque in the northeast of the city was damaged.

14 Said Killed in Raid
LD231138 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov 23, IRNA — Fourteen civilians were martyred and several others wounded during Sunday's air raid by Iraqi jet fighters on Eslamabad-e Gharb, southwest of here. Relief groups were still continuing efforts to take out more bodies from under the debris.

There was no report yet on the casualties of Iraqi air raid on Bakhtaran on Sunday morning.

Attacks on Iraqi Complexes To Resume
LD231703 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1646 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] The War Publicity Headquarters has announced: In reply to enemy air raids today on residential areas of Bakhtaran and Eslamabad-e Gharb, economic, industrial, and military areas in all Iraqi cities, except the four safe holy cities, will be brought under fire by the combatants of Islam tomorrow morning for 48 hours. In this connection, the War Publicity Headquarters issued a statement, which says: Today's enemy attack showed that the deterrent measures taken by the combatants of Islam during the past few days were not punishment enough for the aggressor Iraqi regime, and that it is necessary to deal with the puppet leaders of Baghdad more severely. Therefore, in reply to Iraq's mischief today, the combatants of Islam will resume their attacks on economic, industrial, and military areas in all Iraqi cities, except the four safe cities, from 0600 tomorrow for 48 hours — attacks they had halted as of 2000 last night.

The Iraqi people should thus evacuate the areas around all military, industrial, and economic centers in all Iraqi cities as soon as possible and go to the four safe cities.

Iraqi Engineering Complex Destroyed
LD231817 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 23, IRNA — Engineering headquarters of Iraq's Seventh Army Corps located at southern Abu al-Khasim (eastern Basra) was destroyed by the artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Sunday.

In another development, coastal artillery units of the IRGC targetted an Iraqi gun-boat as it attempted to approach the Iraqi Al-Bakr oil platform. The burning gun-boat was seen towed away by some Iraqi tugboats to Umm Qasr port.

Communique No 2,662
LD211645 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 21 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21, IRNA — Iraqi military and economic centers in the cities of Diyala, 'Ali al-Gharbi, 'Ali al-Sharqi, and Balad Ruz were bombed by Iranian jet-fighters in four separate missions Friday. Heavy damages were inflicted on the centers by the Iranian warplanes which returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique released here Friday.

Communique Number 2,662 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that exchange of artillery fire raged on in most war fronts being somewhat more intense in southern regions especially in Zeydi and Talayeh.

Muslim combatants of Iran checked movement of Iraqi supply columns and dispatched patrol units in southern fronts, the communique said, adding that an Iraqi tank column was subjected to Iranian artillery fire in the said fronts, inflicting heavy damage and losses [on] the enemy forces.

The communique said that Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications in the southern fronts killing some Iraqi soldiers and destroying parts of defense positions of theirs. Eight light vehicles of the enemy were set afire in the shelling, it added.

In western fronts, Iranian fire brought activities of Iraqi copters to a halt, the communique said. It added that Iraqi supply columns in the region opposite Mehran were controlled while enemy engineering activities in Qasr-e Shirin region were stopped.

In north-western fronts, Iraqi positions were subjected to the fire of Muslim combatants which inflicted major damage to them.

The city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was hit by Iraqi artillery fire which caused some damage, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,663
LD221548 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 22 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 22, IRNA — Iraqi forces suffered substantial casualties and damage throughout the fronts in artillery duels

with Iranian Muslim combatants on Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,663 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying eight bunkers and observation posts and several vehicles of theirs.

In the western fronts, the communique said that Iraqi warplanes were forced to flee in Sumar by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. A number of Ba'thist soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts and one munitions dump demolished elsewhere in these fronts by Iranian artillery fire.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Friday raging heavier in Talaiyeh, Bubiyan, and Zayd operational theaters as a result of which Iraqi troops incurred heavy casualties and losses. Enemy patrols were also suppressed and forced to flee, the communique said.

According to the communique, Iranian tank fire pounded Iraqi armoured units in Zayd and Kushk operational regions, southern fronts, on Friday inflicting damage on enemy tanks and silencing their fire.

Parts of Iraqi fortifications were set ablaze and enemy supply routes badly damaged in Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht operational regions, northwestern fronts, by Iranian artillery fire Friday.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi troops from fortifying their positions in Bejliyeh and Pich-e Angizeh, southern fronts, on Friday.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Piranshahr, northwestern fronts, Friday but were forced to flee by Iranian surface-to-air fire, the communique concluded.